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# RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT

# newsletter

March 1963

No. 52

## ALABAMA BENEFITS FROM RAD PROJECTS

*We must show the world what a free economy can do . . . to put unused capacity to work,*

*spur new productivity and foster higher economic growth.*

*President Kennedy.*

■ Economic improvement projects launched last year with help from the Rural Areas Development program of the State will add millions of dollars to Alabama income. So reports Dr. Fred R. Robertson, director of the State's Agricultural Extension Service.

More than 100 projects were begun last year, and many of them were completed. Fifty-three projects will provide nearly 4,000 new jobs with an annual payroll over \$12 million. Projects included: Industrial plants processing farm products; recreational facilities boosting tourism; and community water and sewer systems.

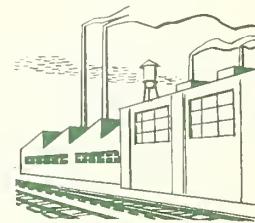
Dr. Robertson praised the area and county RAD committees which made the progress possible: "Prominent leaders in every section of the State worked closely to study their resources, both human and physical, and how to best use them. Representatives of all U. S. Department of Agriculture agencies gave technical assistance to these committees."

"RAD is a real team effort, and it's paying off." That's the opinion Dr. Robertson gives about the following progress made in Alabama:

\*Pell City -- local financing arranged for a \$20,000 poultry processing plant employing 10 to 12 persons.

\*Springville -- RAD committee is helping with the development of a proposed \$350,000 enameling plant to employ 40 persons at the start and 75 within a year.

\*Uriah -- construction is underway on a water system, financed by Farmers Home Administration loan funds, that will serve 120 customers.



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CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

\*Moulton -- a garment plant expansion should provide an additional 150 jobs.

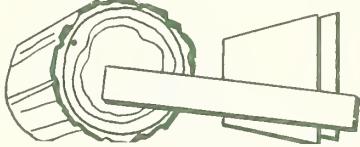
\*Greensboro -- the RAD committee is working on its program to attract tourists by renovating the historical buildings of old Southern Institute and ante-bellum homes in the area. The Plantation Festival, begun in 1962, attracted 5,000 people.

## LOCAL INITIATIVE TEAMED WITH FEDERAL AID CREATES 110 JOBS

□ Thanks to the efforts of local businessmen, an enterprising lumberman, and the assistance of Federal agencies, today there are 110 new jobs in Biddeford, Maine.

How did this happen? It came about because the area's people initiated it, and then were aided by technicians of the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, and by the loan program of the Department of Commerce's Area Redevelopment Administration.

What was the story? No. 4 common grade white pine boards were accumulating in mill years for lack of market demand. Thus, one of the area's main businesses was in a decline. Area businessmen looked for other uses for the lumber. They proposed a finger jointing and edge gluing plant to fabricate clear boards with sections cut from boards of the poorer grades of lumber. They applied to ARA for a loan.



ARA turned to technicians of the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin, and the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station at Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, to study the proposed project. The results indicated that the process would be successful. ARA then approved a \$432,900 loan to help launch the new venture.

Limited production started in October 1962. Sales of the product increased to where production was put on a three-shift basis with 110 employees.

The net result is that today fabricated boards about \$200 per thousand board feet have found a ready market. These are boards made from lumber that lay in yards begging for markets at \$65 per thousand board feet. But, that was before the local people acted to improve their own economic conditions.

## ACCELERATED WATERSHED PROJECTS IN SIX STATES

□ The Soil Conservation Service, USDA, has received \$1,994,000 in Accelerated Public Works funds to speed watershed work and boost employment in Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Tennessee. The funds will be used to build dams and improve stream channels. The work is creating new jobs in rural areas which have high unemployment rates. Projects included:

\*Alabama -- \$168,000 for the Big Prairie-French Creeks watershed project in Perry and Hale Counties.

\*Arkansas -- \$355,000 for the West Fork Point Remove watershed project in Conway County and \$278,000 for the Grady-Gould watershed project in Lincoln County.

\*Kentucky -- \$32,000 for the Obion Creek Watershed project in Carlisle County and \$23,000 for the West Fork of the Clarks River watershed project in Callovay County.

\*Louisiana -- \$88,000 for the Pleasant Valley, Big Ditch, Scarboroughs Creeks watershed project in Washington Parish (County).

\*Oklahoma -- \$1,006,000 for work on six projects: Washita River watershed, Kickapoo subwatershed, Murray County, \$75,000; Bear, Fall and Coon Creeks watershed, Lincoln County, \$116,000; Sallisaw Creek watershed, Sequoyah County, \$166,000; Leader-Middle Clear Boggy Creek watershed, Coal County, \$100,000, and Pontotoc County, \$188,000; Washita River watershed, Roaring Creek subwatershed, Grady County, \$61,000; and Big Wewoka watershed, Hughes County, \$150,000, and Seminole County \$150,000.

\*Tennessee -- \$44,000 for the Porters Creek watershed project in Hardeman County.

These watersheds when completed will do much more than create temporary local employment. They will greatly reduce periodic flood damages which have been impairing the areas' economies, and will halt erosion and excessive water runoff and improve the farmlands.

#### ARA LOANS CREATE JOBS IN ALASKA, TENNESSEE, TEXAS, & WISCONSIN

□ Nearly 300 new jobs will be created in Alaska, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin by recent Area Redevelopment Administration loans and grants.

ALASKA -- A \$230,000 industrial loan to a hardwoods company at Palmer will help reopen a sawmill, creating 26 direct new jobs, and 12 indirect jobs.

TENNESSEE -- 100 direct new jobs in an outdoor sign manufacturing plant at Centerville will result from a \$116,400 public facility loan and grant. The funds will enable the town to expand its water system to serve an industrial park.

TEXAS -- A \$228,540 industrial loan to a plastic industry in Henderson will provide jobs for 63 workers.

WISCONSIN -- A \$418,000 loan will help establish a new paper mill in Tomahawk, creating 38 direct new jobs and a total of 73 jobs when the mill reaches full capacity.

#### RAD PROGRESS REPORTED FROM MINNESOTA LEADER

□ Edward Becker, Executive Secretary, State Committee for Rural Areas Development, reports on the following RAD activity in Minnesota.



\*Three years ago Doug Lewis, Pine County farmer, started making pallets in his granary. It was a part time operation employing two men. Today, the D. L. Lewis Manufacturing Company, operating out of new facilities, employs 20 men and uses about 80,000 board feet of timber per month. How did this happen? The county's RAD Committee, organized by Extension Service, aided Mr. Lewis in his expansion program.

The extension agent helped Mr. Lewis to meet with Small Business Administration, Department of Commerce, with the State's Department of Business Development and other agencies and private groups, to explain his plans and seek their help. The businessmen of his local community -- Hinckley -- also met with Mr. Lewis, and responded with financial aid.

#### RAD PROGRESS REPORT FROM LOUISIANA

¶ \*Avoyelles Parish: Construction of a sweet potato storage shed has been arranged through regular financing. An ARA loan has been approved for a grain elevator to handle soybeans at Evergreen. Other projects in progress: A charcoal factory, a pecan shelling plant, a toy novelty factory, and a candy factory.

\*Cameron Parish: Projects underway include an access road to a recreation beach in the Creole Area. A recreation project and a housing project are among others being planned.

\*St. Landry Parish: Projects in progress include a paper company, expansion of Krotz Springs port and an extension of a sewer system.

#### SUMMARY OF REA SURVEY OF RAD PROGRESS

¶ The Rural Electrification Administration surveyed its nearly 1,000 electric and more than 700 telephone borrowers asking them to report the commercial and industrial projects developed in their service areas during the past 18 months. Returns from one-third of the borrowers uncovered these things about local development:

. . . That more than 53,000 jobs have been or will be created in rural areas by the commercial and industrial projects these borrowers helped local people launch.

. . . That the majority of the financing for the projects is coming from private or local sources, not from the Federal government.

. . . That Federal loans and grants provide the "seed money," at most.

. . . That the REA electric and telephone borrowers, themselves formed and run by local people, are also providing leadership in rural areas development.

#### AGRICULTURE-INTERIOR SECRETARIES RECOMMEND NEW RECREATION AREAS

¶ Secretary of Agriculture Freeman and Secretary of the Interior Udall have announced broad new conservation policy to help implement outdoor recreation. President Kennedy hailed the agreement as a "milestone in conservation progress."

The accord announced that the President's cabinet-level Recreation Advisory Council plans shortly to recommend creation of a new limited system of National Recreation Areas. The two Secretaries also said that, subject to Congressional approval, two new National Recreation Areas and a new National Seashore Area may be established as a result of the sweeping agreement between the two Departments.

Copies of press release USDA 397-63 announcing the agreement may be obtained from Editor, RAD Newsletter, Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

